

Amendment to the Drawings:

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Official Action dated December 28, 2005. In response to the issues raised, we offer the following submissions, amendments and Terminal Disclaimer.

Amendments

Figure 43 has been amended to indicate the layers making up the fluid distribution stack 500. These layers are listed in the description at page 31, lines 12-14.

The specification has been amended throughout to change the erroneous reference to non-existent Figure 17C to Figure 17B.

Claims 2-4 have been amended to change the definition of the loading plate to a definition of the pressure plate in order to clarify which feature of the preferred embodiment to which this claim element corresponds.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add new matter.

Drawings

As discussed above, replacement Figure 43 clearly indicates the layers that make up the fluid stack 500 as discussed in the sub-section entitled 'Fluid Distribution Stack' (see page 31).

Furthermore, the loading plate of original claims 2-4 has been redefined as the pressure plate. The skilled address will readily understand that this corresponds to the pressure plate 74 shown in Figures 19A, 19B, 20 and 21. Accordingly, all the claim elements are represented in the drawings.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting

The enclosed Terminal Disclaimer links the term and ownership of any patent granted on the present application to that of co-pending USSN 10/760,183. The Applicant submits that this avoids any unjust timewise extension of patent rights or harassment from multiple assignees.

Claims – 35USC§102

Claims 1 to 8 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of US 6,439,908 to Silverbrook et al. The Applicant disagrees and submits that the cited reference fails to teach the present invention.

Claim 1 requires the printhead assembly to have a casing with a removable mounting element that has recessed channels for removably receiving the longitudinally extending conductors. The Examiner has equated the mounting element of claim 1 with the cover moulding 28 of '908. The Examiner has also equated the busbars 58 and 60 in '908 with the longitudinally extending conductors of the present invention. It is clear from figures 6, 7 and 8 of '908 that the cover moulding 28 does not have individual recesses for each of the busbars 58 and 60.

The combination of elements defined in claim 1 allow the printhead assembly to be easily assembled and disassembled (see page 14, lines 22-25). The removable mounting frames provide mounting points for a series of PCB's extending along the printhead assembly. The PCB's can have one or more print engine controllers (PEC's), with each PEC controlling one or more printhead IC's. This versatility in the number of PCB's and the ratio of PEC's to printhead IC's can be used to tailor the print speed to the application (see the discussion on page 25 of the description). The '908 printhead assembly does not provide for tailoring the print speed using the PEC to printhead IC ratio.

Accordingly, the cited disclosure fails to anticipate the combination of elements defined by claim 1. Likewise, claims 2 to 8 are also novel by virtue of their dependence (directly or indirectly) from claim 1.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the claim rejection has been successfully traversed. Accordingly favourable reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:



KIA SILVERBROOK



NORMAN MICHEAL BERRY



GARRY RAYMOND JACKSON



AKIRA NAKAZAWA

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia
Email: kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com
Telephone: +612 9818 6633
Facsimile: +61 2 9555 7762